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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

WT Docket
- No. 98-182

June 08, 2001

Michele Farquhar, Esq.
President, Land Mobile Communications Council
c/o ITA
Suite 500
1110 N. Glebe Road
Arlington, VA 22201-5720

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Monitoring Levels that Coordinators Recommend to Prevent
Trunked Systems from Causing Interference on Shared Channels

Dear Ms. Farquhar:

This is in response to your letter¹ dated February 2, 2001 (letter), on behalf of the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC), to Thomas J. Sugrue, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Bureau) concerning the issue of monitoring levels as discussed in WT Docket No. 98-182.² Your letter states that the members of the LMCC, as representatives of the FCC-certified Frequency Advisory Committees ("FACs" or "coordinators"), have agreed on FAC-mandated technical monitoring requirements, guidelines and frequency coordination procedures for trunked systems authorized under the "YG" radio service code and an "FB2," FB4," FB6," or "FB7" station class code operating on frequencies between 150 MHz and 512 MHz (hereinafter referred to as "trunked systems"). The LMCC requests the Bureau's support of the FAC consensus position and an acknowledgement that it is consistent with the Commission's Rules.

We anticipate addressing the FAC consensus position by public notice in the near future. Before doing so, however, we ask the LMCC to confirm that our understanding of the FACs' consensus position is accurate and complete. If it is not, we ask the LMCC to provide clarification(s) to correct our misunderstanding. What follows is a discussion of our understanding of the FAC consensus process regarding trunked systems and specific requests for certain clarifications.

In its *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in WT Docket No. 98-182 (R&O), the Commission recognized centralized, decentralized and hybrid trunked systems and clarified that the Part 90 monitoring requirements apply to all trunked operations on shared channels. Specifically, the Commission made clear that, with one exception, trunked systems must monitor prior to transmitting and that the level of monitoring must be sufficient to prevent trunked systems from causing harmful interference. Furthermore, the Commission stated that it would rely on the FACs to specify a "level" of monitoring and that the FACs must develop and employ uniform procedures concerning the certification of applications proposing trunked systems that require monitoring. R&O, ¶ 25. The LMCC, which includes all of the FACs as members, states that the letter reflects monitoring standards agreed to by all the coordinators.

¹ Letter from Michele Farquhar, Esq., President, Land Mobile Communications Council, to Thomas J. Sugrue, Esq., Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, FCC, dated February 2, 2001 (letter). We note that LMCC recently elected Robert M. Gurss, Esq. as President. Accordingly, we are sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Gurss.

² 1998 Biennial Review - 47 C.F.R. Part 90 - Private Land Mobile Radio Services, WT Docket No. 98-182, *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 15 FCC Rcd 16,673, ¶ 25 (2000) (R&O).

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List A B C D E

Monitoring Level Requirements – Defined (“Level 1” and “Level 2”)

The monitoring level requirements recite factual matters that the LMCC may have considered in developing these standards (e.g., the LMCC’s determination that a majority of decentralized and hybrid systems employ LTR protocol) such that it is unclear whether these considerations are part of the standards. In addition, while the LMCC’s letter specifically references the Industrial/Business Pool trunked system radio service code (“YG”), it does not reference the Public Safety Pool trunked system radio service code (“YW”). As noted, the Commission made clear that except under certain conditions, trunked systems must monitor prior to transmitting and that the level of monitoring must be sufficient to prevent trunked systems from causing harmful interference. Therefore:

1. Please confirm that our understanding of the definitions is accurate; or, if it is inaccurate, please provide clarifying information to correct our understanding, which is as follows:

Level 1 Monitoring: The repeater (base station) will monitor the input channel for transmit signals coming from co-channel mobile and portable units. The corresponding repeater output channel will be disabled during the co-channel mobile or portable unit’s transmission.

Level 2 Monitoring: The repeater (base station) will monitor the output channel for transmit signals coming from co-channel base stations. The corresponding repeater output channel will be disabled during the co-channel base station’s transmission.

Implementation of Monitoring Level Solutions

The new procedures to implement the monitoring level solutions recite factual matters that the LMCC may have considered in developing these procedures (e.g., all LTR-based trunking systems must have Level 1 monitoring, which can be easily and economically implemented by licensees) such that it is unclear whether these considerations are part of the procedures. As noted, the Commission made clear that except under certain conditions, trunked systems must monitor prior to transmitting and that the level of monitoring must be sufficient to prevent trunked systems from causing interference. Therefore:

2. Please confirm that our understanding of the new procedures is accurate; or, if it is inaccurate, please provide clarifying information to correct our understanding, which is as follows:

- All trunked systems (YG or YW) with an FB2, FB4, FB6 or FB7 station class code (but not FB8) will be subject to the new procedures.
- FACs will provide each applicant with a written explanation about the need for employing the appropriate level of monitoring, including a notation that compliance with FAC-recommended monitoring levels does not exempt a licensee from the Commission’s Rules. *See, e.g., 47 C.F.R. § 90.403(e)* (licensees have a continuing obligation to take reasonable precautions to avoid causing harmful interference).
- FACs will develop and employ uniform procedures concerning monitoring levels.

Level 1: All FAC certifications for applications for trunked systems will recommend Level 1 monitoring, unless Level 2 is recommended.

Level 2: In some cases, due to factors such as topology, geography, or congestion levels, FACs will use their discretion to recommend Level 2 monitoring. In such cases, the FAC will specifically recommend that "Level 2" monitoring be added as a "Special Condition" to the license grant. FACs recognize that Level 2 monitoring will require the licensee to purchase additional equipment. As such, FACs will carefully and judiciously apply this requirement.

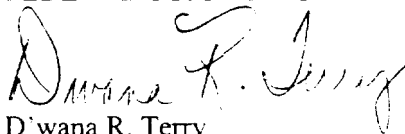
In those instances where "Level 2" monitoring capability is recommended by a coordinator to address instances of harmful co-channel interference, the FCC is encouraged to support the FAC post-licensing conflict resolution process.

3. We understand that the factors listed above, such as topology, geography, and congestion levels, are illustrative examples of cases where FACs will recommend Level 2 monitoring. Nonetheless, please clarify whether these factors include applications for trunked systems in the 150-174 MHz band, wherein many existing licensees employ non-standard pairs or unpaired frequencies.

4. If the response to number 3 above is "no," we understand that Level 1 monitoring will be recommended. Please clarify how Level 1 monitoring will sufficiently prevent trunked systems from causing interference to existing licensees employing non-standard pairing or unpaired frequencies in the 150-174 MHz band.

Please provide the FACs' joint response to this request for clarification within sixty days of the date of this letter, which is issued under delegated authority pursuant to Sections 0.131 and 0.331 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.131, 0.331.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION,



D'wana R. Terry
Chief, Public Safety and Private Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Copies to: Robert M. Gurss, Esq.
WT Docket No. 98-182